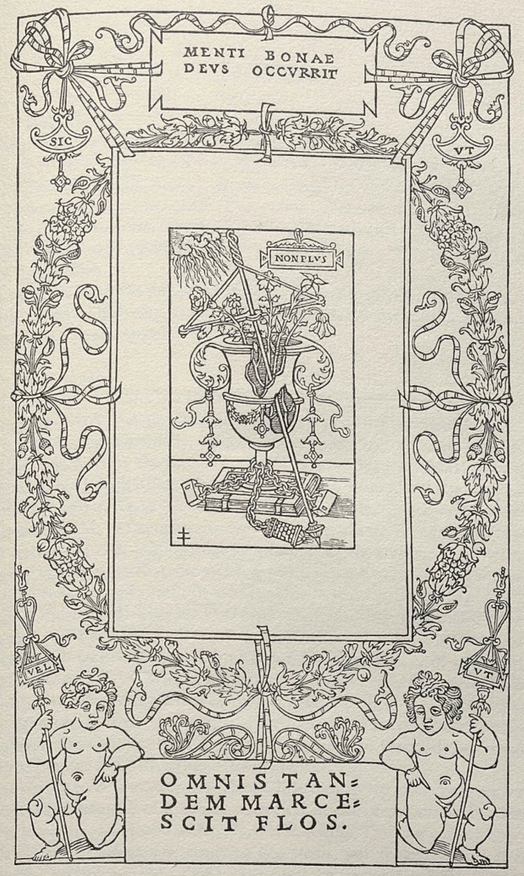
can no more be recognized or distinguished than would be fifteen or twenty men who were all heaped one upon another. When we see two men standing side by side, or three, or perchance four, we can clearly distinguish one from another; but even among four, there is some one who cannot be wholly seen, because of the obstacle made by the one standing in front of him. Wherefore, my good lords & devout lovers of well-made letters, when it shall please you to make ciphers in gold rings or otherwhere, make them of two, of three, or of four letters, without changing or reducing any one from its proper shape, & you will do well.

I Have drawn them in only ten ways, some of two letters, others of three, some of four, and others of more; but I have drawn those of more than four, not to persuade you that you should always do so, but to show you that a too great number of letters, some upon others, make confusion among themselves, and are not so pleasing to the eye as two or three, or four at most. I could have drawn five hundred or a thousand for you in various graceful fashions, but if it is your pleasure to amuse yourself with them, make as many or as few as you please. It is a very respectable pastime to practise.

THE END OF THE RULES
FOR MAKING CIPHERS.

Now I will make an end to this book of ours, giving praise to our Lord Jesus for having assisted me with his favour and begging him to give you his love to your utmost satisfaction.



Here endeth this present book, with the addition of thirteen different styles of letters, & the manner of making ciphers for gold rings, or other things. The printing was finished on Wednesday the twenty-eighth day of the month of April in the year one thousand five hundred twenty-nine, for Maistre Geofroy Tory of Bourges, author of said book, and bookseller living at Paris, who has it for sale on the Petit Pont at the Sign of the Pot Cassé; and for Giles Gourmont, also a bookseller living in said Paris, who has it for sale on Rue Sainct Jaques at the Sign of the Trois Coronnes.